

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 /080 W

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P 051913Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1331

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: US ROLE IN PUERTO RICO CRITICIZED IN EAST GERMAN PRESS

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON AUGUST 29 CARRIED A NEWS REPORT WITH A HAVANA DATELINE OF PREPARATIONS FOR A CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 5-7 IN HAVANA TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THE "FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO." THE ARTICLE CITES THE PARTICIPATION OF 28 COUNTRIES FROM LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE AND FROM 12 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PREPARATIONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL.

2. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT ALTHOUGH PUERTO RICO IS "NOMINALLY" AN ASSOCIATED FREE STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, IT IS IN FACT STILL A COLONY. STATISTICS ARE CITED TO SHOW THE OVERWHELMING ECONOMIC DOMINANCE OF AMERICAN FIRMS IN PUERTO RICO, IT IS ALLEGED THAT OVER SIXTY PERCENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN POPULATION LIVES BELOW THE OFFICIAL US POVERTY LEVEL, AND THE STATEMENT IS MADE THAT TEN PERCENT OF THE ARABLE LAND HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER FOR US MILITARY PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE TRAINING OF "SPECIAL UNITS" WHICH HAVE BEEN USED MANY TIMES FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF "PEOPLES MOVEMENTS" IN LATIN AMERICA. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT IN

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1973 THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED

THE RIGHT OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE,
AND THAT A DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE UN WAS
NARROWLY AVERTED BY THE US IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THIS ARTICLE
WAS CLEARED BY APPROPRIATE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND.
IT MAY BE INTENDED TO SET THE STAGE FOR FURTHER
EAST GERMAN COVERAGE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING IN
HAVANA. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER GDR
CRITICISM REGARDING PUERTO RICO. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-1057
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750977/aaaacpxx.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ROLE IN PUERTO RICO CRITICIZED IN EAST GERMAN PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, GC, US, RQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006